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for pap from the breasts of a state treasury." This sentence in itself is typical of the book both as to fact and style. As to fact, I need mention only the activities of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and the Canadian Northern Railway as instances to the contrary.

So also, "During the last ten years she [Canada] has drawn . . . almost two million Americans." To substantiate this statement, mention is made of a census of 1914, whatever that may mean. The statement is ridiculous and Canadians should have learned from the disappointing returns of the census of 1911 that our immigration figures, as a basis for estimating an increase in population, are thoroughly unreliable. We learn also that "Canada can build ships as cheaply as any country in the world." Comment is unnecessary. There is found throughout the book much unreasoning and futile comparison of areas in Canada with areas of similar size in Europe, with little or no recognition of the fact that very substantial parts of Canada are uninhabited and uninhabitable.

A very sane and moderate account of the natural resources of Canada has recently been written by Dr. F. D. Adams for the Conservation Commission. This and the yearly reports of the commission are greatly to be preferred to such publications as *The Canadian Commonwealth*.

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An Introduction to the Economic History of England. I. The Middle Ages. By E. LIPSON. (London: A. & C. Black, Ltd. 1915. Pp. viii, 552. 7s. 6d.)

Mr. Lipson has produced a work of exceptional importance for the teacher and student of English economic history, one which in many of its parts will have to be taken account of also by the specialist in the field. The volume before us covers the period from earliest times to the reign of Elizabeth and treats of the following subjects: the origin of the manor, the manor and the open field system, the break-up of the manor, the agrarian revolution, the growth of towns, fairs and markets, the guild merchant, craft guilds, the woollen industry, foreign trade, and revenue and exchequer. It closes with an appendix of authorities and a fairly good index. Though the first chapter, on the origin of the manor, and the last, on revenue and the exchequer, are mainly compilations, the re-

maining chapters, in varying degrees, are based not only on authoritative monographic literature but also on the rapidly accumulating texts which have been appearing from time to time at the expense of the British government or of local British historical societies in their transactions and proceedings. Nothing better has been written on medieval English towns, fairs, markets, and guilds than is to be found in this history, and though Professor Ashley's admirable volumes possess an insight and attractiveness that will enable them to hold their place for many years to come, the greater comprehensiveness, thoroughness, and accuracy of Mr. Lipson's work and the wealth of illustration and reference with which it abounds will cause it to take precedence of the older history in many of the subjects treated. It is of quite a different character from the recent compilations of Allsopp, Inness, and Tickner.

Not only is the work based on careful investigation, but also it is written from the standpoint of the modern historical scholar. Mr. Lipson makes it clear that he has no other object to further than the ascertainment of the truth and that he will be satisfied with no other source of information than the one which will tell the truth most convincingly. He declares that it is seldom safe to regard medieval legislation as an index to anything more certain than the intentions and aspirations of the lawmaker; that new statutes were very slow in changing the life of the local communities; and that the promulgation of a law rarely marked a new departure in actual economic custom and practice. Consequently, he places little faith in the medieval law book and statute book as sources of history and goes directly to the local evidence itself. He demonstrates conclusively that "the apparently dry and insignificant details gleaned from records and charters, civil pleadings and inquisitions, form the material out of which is built the living story" of the growth of English agriculture, industry, and commerce. In this respect he does what Green aimed to accomplish with insufficient knowledge—to describe the life of the humbler folk among the people of England. His method is an advance on that of Dr. Cunningham, who depended largely on statute and pamphlet, and is more in accord with that of the writers for the *Victoria History of the Counties of England*, from the chapters of which on social and economic life he has gleaned many of the facts which he has woven into his own story.

In this attempt to get as near as possible to the actual life of

the English local communities in the period from the twelfth to the sixteenth centuries, Mr. Lipson has reached two general conclusions, which though not new as matters of belief are new as comprehensively demonstrated statements. In the first place, he shows that medieval life was nowhere uniform, and that large generalizations need to be qualified at every turn; and, in the second place, that English medieval rural society was not stationary but progressive, and that any view to the contrary is misleading and untrue to fact. The evidence upon which these conclusions are based constitutes the very fibre of his work.

In lesser matters also he is equally enlightening and suggestive. As has already been said, the best chapters are those that relate to towns, fairs, markets, and guilds, and in these, as in fact in all, he has accompanied his evidence with admirable summaries that lend themselves to quotation and comment. The English medieval towns, he says, were characterized by "cohesion, self-dependency, and the jealous isolation of the various municipal units," but among the burgesses there seems to have been "a genuine sense of solidarity, a coöperation of social and economic forces for the common welfare which made the English borough of the Middle Ages a storehouse of political ideas and a valuable school for political training." Though gildship, like parliamentary representation, was not a privilege but a burden involving heavy responsibilities, the gild enactments embodied "professions of good faith and regard for the common profit that were not devoid of real meaning." Though the commercial relations of the time "were not international but ultra-municipal, and each town presented to its neighbors the same impenetrable front that modern nations nowadays exhibit towards each other," the situation represents but "one stage of social evolution to another, from the city state to the country state," and discloses the early history of the industrial protective policy which gradually crystallized in the famous mercantile system, an extension from a civic to a national practice.

The disappearance of the gild merchant in the fourteenth century was due, Mr. Lipson believes, to the rapid development of the craft guilds "among which the powers of the merchant guild were parcelled out," a process due, not to legislation but to the operation of economic forces. In like manner the craft guilds themselves were transformed, not as the result of the acts of 1437 and 1504, upon which Mr. Lipson places a new interpretation, or as a consequence of the legislation of the Reformation period, but by the inevitably

disintegrating effects of changing economic conditions, the separation of the functions of production and distribution, and the gradual emergence of the domestic system. One of the most important of Mr. Lipson's conclusions concerns the place of capital in the medieval economy. Capitalist manufacturers, he finds, existed in considerable numbers before the middle of the fifteenth century, the date assigned by Professor Ashley, and capital as an agricultural and industrial factor played a much larger part in medieval life than has usually been supposed. Usury laws, he thinks, rather retarded than aided the economic development of the Middle Ages.

A few of his minor points may be noted. The word "blanket" appears one hundred and twenty years before the date given in the Oxford dictionary. The guilds were the founders and maintainers of many grammar schools and so stand among the forerunners of our modern educational system. Women in the Middle Ages were not merely "unpaid domestic workers" but wage-earners as well, supplying a market and sharing in the industrial life of the country. The industrial conflict between town and country is older than the sixteenth century. Weaving and the working up of English cloth is older than the immigration of the Flemish artisans, and English merchants competed with aliens and engaged in a foreign carrying trade at an earlier date and to a greater extent than older writers were wont to believe. Other conclusions, equally interesting, might be cited, but enough has been said to show the value of Mr. Lipson's book and to demonstrate how important it is that the publication of local historical material should be continued as rapidly as possible.

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The Evolution of the English Corn Market from the Twelfth to the Eighteenth Century. By NORMAN SCOTT BRIEN GRAS. Harvard Economic Studies, Vol. XIII. Awarded the David A. Wells prize for the year 1912-1913. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press. 1915. Pp. xiii, 498. \$2.50.)

The commercial organization of one of England's basic industries is here subjected to intense, genetic study. The corn trade technique is shown to have developed from intermanorial relations which gradually resolved themselves into a territorial marketing system; the rapid growth of London in population and trade forced a reorganization into the metropolitan consumption stage